

APPLICATION CONFIGURATION CONSOLE FEATURE SUMMARY



FEATURES

- Management of application configuration data at individual property level
- Configuration Compare
- Template-based automation
- Policy enforcement at the individual configuration property level
- Ability to roll-back to a known good configuration settings
- Change tracking and alerts for individual configuration property changes
- Blueprints for >100 software products
- Role-based views of configuration data

BENEFITS

- Cut time and cost of infrastructure upgrades by 72%
- Reduced downtime from configuration errors by 70%
- Reduced operational support costs by 50%
- Delivered new applications 20% faster

RELATED PRODUCTS

- Configuration Management Pack for Oracle Database
- Configuration Management Pack for Fusion Middleware
- Configuration Management Pack for Applications

As IT infrastructures continue to expand configuration management has become one of the most critical components of day to day IT operations. Put simply, failure to effectively control application and system architecture erodes the value of technology investments. A feature set within the Oracle Configuration Management Pack is the Application Configuration Console. Application Configuration Console is designed for the specific needs of IT infrastructure teams within large enterprises who require a comprehensive solution for managing the application infrastructure underlying their mission-critical applications — the multi-tiered, distributed architecture that includes application servers, Web servers, databases and middleware. This environment typically includes tens of thousands of configuration properties that need to be set, tuned and controlled for the infrastructure to work reliably across all environments, geographies and software assets.

Application Configuration Console

Application Configuration Console provides IT infrastructure teams with an automated “gold master” approach to application infrastructure configuration management that enables smooth delivery and support of mission-critical business applications. Through use of the capabilities, IT infrastructure personnel can capture the current state of configuration settings for IT assets, monitor them for changes, and automate processes for provisioning changes as well as setting up new environments throughout the application lifecycle — from development, testing and through production.

Application Configuration Console enables IT Infrastructure Teams to:

- Improve IT productivity through automation of routine tasks associated with building, managing, changing, troubleshooting, provisioning and auditing the application infrastructure that can consume up to 75% of an IT team’s time.
- Accelerate the time-to value of new applications, migrations and upgrades by dramatically reducing the configuration errors and complexity that contribute to application downtime.
- Enhance application uptime and quality through rigorous control of configuration consistency across all environments

- Automate change reporting for IT compliance requirements

Features and Business Benefits

The following table provides an overview of the key features and business benefits.

Feature	Business Benefit
Management of application configuration data at individual property level	Fine-tuning of configurations to the specific needs of different applications and environments (development, QA, staging, production, disaster recovery)
Application configuration compare	Reduce time to find and fix application configuration errors by identifying differences
Template-based configuration collection	Create new application infrastructure instances and collections in minutes vs. days
Policy enforcement at the individual configuration property level	Enforce corporate standards
Intelligent parameter-setting for configuration properties	Highlight properties that require customization across environments
Change tracking and alerts for individual configuration property changes	Set alerts for out-of-policy changes that trigger IT audit problems
Signatures for 100+ software assets	Instant discovery of configuration properties for the most widely-used application servers.
Role-based views of configuration data	Customized displays of related configuration data from various sources or locations
Agent-less collection	Configuration collection across the enterprise with no requirement to install an agent

Key Product Features

Centralized Application Infrastructure Configuration Data Repository

At the core of Application Configuration Console is a centralized configuration data repository that stores fine-grained configuration settings for all managed application infrastructure assets. Data is automatically collected at an individual property level via an agentless, deep-dive approach using out-of-the box signatures for more than 100 software assets, providing the foundation for change tracking, audit reporting and versioning/rollback.

The software includes a built-in wizard that allows users to rapidly create new signatures for extracting configuration data from nearly any packaged or custom software component. Application Configuration Console also enables users to create standardized templates of configuration settings that can be used to quickly create and deploy new instances of application infrastructure assets.

Flexible, User-Defined Views

Application Configuration Console's user-defined views provide IT with detailed insight into large, complex infrastructures by allowing them to view visual representations of managed assets across multiple environments and drill down into configuration details as needed. Users can easily customize their views to highlight only those configuration details for which they are responsible (e.g., application servers only or assets by specific location).

Powerful "Compare" Feature

Application Configuration Console's unique "Compare" feature enables users to instantly compare fine-grained configuration setting differences across time, among similar assets or among entire environments by intelligently identifying only unexpected differences. This powerful capability enables users to quickly pinpoint the "needle in a haystack" differences that would otherwise take hours or days to find. Detailed change detection and analysis can be set to execute on a pre-determined schedule or an ad-hoc basis.

Change Tracking

Application Configuration Console facilitates a centralized approach to change tracking by maintaining a running record of changes across application environments. IT can create and enforce policies for managing configuration changes and automatically capture and catalog every change as a separate version for simplified comparison and reporting. Versions show who changed what, when, and provide a fast means of rollback in the event of system downtime.

Configuration Provisioning

Using "gold master" configuration templates, Application Configuration Console can instantly provision application configuration settings to a virtually unlimited number of target host systems. This can be done for any single element in the application infrastructure or across the entire software stack. Additionally, Application Configuration Console can provision configuration setting changes at an extremely fine-grained level when only specific anomalies need to be corrected across distributed environments. Prior to provisioning changes, users can confirm accuracy by comparing proposed changes in Application Configuration Console's data model to the live environment.

Audit and Compliance

Application Configuration Console promotes systematic compliance with corporate standards and regulatory initiatives by enabling customers to establish standards for application configurations, implement management controls over them, actively monitor changes and immediately remedy problems in the application infrastructure. Users can identify configurations requiring change, assess the impact of changes before they occur and ensure that only authorized people can make changes. Alerts can be issued when configuration changes are made and indicate whether they were made in-process or out-of-process — a key issue for compliance.

Reporting

The foundation of Application Configuration Console's powerful reporting

capabilities is a dashboard that highlights total assets and configurations under management, recent activity, change volume and change compliance and provides easy access to more than a dozen detailed reports for Audit, Activity, Planning, Comparison, Administration and System. Reports can be generated automatically and saved as PDFs, distributed via e-mail and scheduled to run on a recurring basis.

Alerts

Application Configuration Console's sophisticated tracking and comparison alerts allow IT to become immediately aware of differences detected based on scheduled events. IT also gains insight into which users resolve specific alerts and associated resolution details. Users can set one of several states for alerts to track progress as well as associate alerts to an external ticketing application for closed-loop change compliance.

Technologies Supported By Application Configuration Console

Application Servers:

- IBM WebSphere Application Server 5 & 6
- BEA WebLogic Server 7, 8 & 9
- Sun Java System Application Server
- Oracle Application Server
- Apache Tomcat
- Borland Enterprise Server, AppServer Edition
- JBoss

Web Servers:

- Apache HTTP server
- IBM HTTP Server
- Microsoft IIS 5 & 6
- iPlanet Web Server
- Sun Java System Web Server
- Oracle HTTP Server

Enterprise Applications:

- EMC Documentum
- Blue Martini
- IBM WebSphere Portal
- Peoplesoft
- Siebel
- Cognos

Windows Applications:

- Microsoft IIS
- Sharepoint Portal
- Windows Server 2000 & 2003

Instrumentation:

- Wily Introscope
- HP Business Availability Center (BAC)

Messaging:

- IBM WebSphere MQ
- BEA Tuxedo
- TIBCO Rendezvous
- TIBCO Enterprise Messaging Service
- CA AutoSys

Databases:

- Oracle 9i
- Oracle 10g
- MySQL
- Microsoft SQL Server
- DB2 UDB

Operating System Configuration Files:

- Sun Solaris
- Linux (SUSE & RedHat)
- IBM AIX
- Windows

Enterprise Security:

- Microsoft Active Directory
- IBM Tivoli Directory Server
- CA eTrust Directory
- OpenSSL
- Netegrity

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